

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 03123 201717Z
ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1022
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
USMISSION NATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 3123

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, PO
SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS: BRAZILIAN SOLIDARITY WEEK ENDS

REF: LISBON 0834 (DTG 311802Z JAN 77) (NOTAL)
SUMMARY: DESPITE BROAD PARTICIPATION ACROSS THE POLITICAL
SPECTRUM, BRAZILIAN SOLIDARITY WEEK FAILED TO MUSTER MUCH
POPULAR SUPPORT. COMMUNIST EFFORTS TO DOMINATE THE WEEK'S
ACTIVITIES WERE NOT SUCCESSFUL. END SUMMARY

1. FREE THE POLITICAL PRISONERS: BRAZILIAN SOLIDARITY WEEK
ENDED APR 19 WITH A SPARSELY ATTENDED RALLY IN THE LISBON SPORTS
PAVILION. TWIN THEMES OF THE GATHERING, AS WELL AS THE
SERIES OF PRESS CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, AND MEETINGS WHICH
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PAGE 02 LISBON 03123 201717Z

PRECEDED IT, WERE CRITICISM OF THE GEISEL GOVERNMENT AND
CALLS FOR A GENERAL AMNESTY FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS IN
BRAZIL. THE SCORE OF PORTUGUESE AND BRAZILIAN SPEAKERS
AT THE RALLY INCLUDED SOCIAL DEMOCRAT OLIVIO FRANCA, LEFT-
WING SOCIALISTS KALIDAS BARRETO AND CARLOS LAGE, AND
SEVERAL PROMINENT LEFTIST INDEPENDENTS. FAR LEFT FOLK HERO
OTELLO SARAIVA DE CARVALHO WAS AMONG THE PROMINENT LEFTISTS

IN THE AUDIENCE.

2. COMMUNISTS BACK OUT: PCP MOUTHPIECE "O DIARIO" ATTRIBUTED THE LESS-THAN-EXPECTED TURNOUT TO THE ANTI-COMMUNIST OVER-TONES OF SOME OF WEEK'S EVENTS. "O DIARIO" CITED AS A CASE IN POINT AN INTERVIEW WITH FORMER BRAZILIAN COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBER ROLANDO FRATI CARRIED APR 19 BY SOCIALIST-LEANING "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS." (POUCHED). FRATI WAS SHARPLY CRITICAL OF FRACTIONALISM AMONG PARTIES OF THE LEFT IN BRAZIL, RESERV-ING HIS SHARPEST BARBS FOR HIS FORMER PCB COMRADES.

3. COMMENT: DESPITE BROAD PARTICIPATION ACROSS THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM, SOLIDARITY WEEK FAILED TO MUSTER MUCH POPULAR SUPPORT. THE COMMUNISTS NOTABLE FAILED IN THEIR EFFORTS TO DOMINATE THE WEEK'S ACTIVITIES. THE PCP HAD SOUGHT TO USE THE PROGRAM:

-- TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM CRITICISM OF VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE USSR AND EASTERN EUROPE.
-- TO FOSTER CONTACTS BETWEEN PCP AND LEFT-WING SOCIALISTS AND INDEPENDENTS, THEREBY BUTTRESSING CONTINUING COMMUNIST EFFORTS TO FORGE LEFTIST UNITY FROM BELOW.

4. FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE NON-COMMUNIST PARTICIPANTS, THE WEEK WAS AN ATTRACTIVE WAY OF HIGHLIGHTING THEIR CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. FOR THE SOCIALISTS, PARTICULARLY, IT WAS A CONVENIENT METHOD OF REAFFIRMING LEFTIST CREDENTIALS, THEREBY DEFLECTING CHARGES THAT THE PS, AS THE GOVERNMENT PARTY, HAS SOLD OUT TO THOSE PROMOTING CAPITALIST RECOVERY. CRITICISM OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN BRAZIL
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PAGE 03 LISBON 03123 201717Z

WILL GIVE ADDED CREDIBILITY ON THE LEFT TO THE STEPPED UP CAMPAIGN BY ALL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES AGAINST COMMUNIST HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS.
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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